by this Ministry under a prioritized list of the State Government for fimding under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also advised the State Government to explore the possibility of external funding.

The State Government are yet to modify the scheme and send a revised proposal to various Ministries of the Government of India.

Capacity utilization of super single colour sheet-fed Offset Machines

1323. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Printing had purchased 12 Nos. P.O. 36 Super Single colour Sheet-fed Offset machines worth Rs. 174.18 lakhs;

(b) whether CAG during its investigation assessed the capacity utilisation of the said machines at only 6.22 per cent;

(c) whether Director (Ptg.), in connivance with the firm, misled Government and recommended to Government for purchase of said outdated machines; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the said officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) 12Nos. P.O. 36 machines were purchased in 1995 at a total cost of Rs. 167.39 lakhs plus taxes.

(b) The capacity utilization of 6.22% has been indicated in a special investigation report of audit. The audit has assessed this capacity utilization on the basis of rated capacity. The audit has multiplied the maximum speed of the machine with the total annual working hours. In reply to these observations of audit, it has been explained that capacity utilization is worked out with reference to annual assessed capacity of the machine. The maximum speed can only be achieved in ideal conditions which do not exist in practice. Further, the speed at which a particular machine can be run also depends on the nature of jobs and various other factors. With the passage of timc-there is erosion in the operational efficiency of the machine also. Therefore, the annual Assessed Capacity of the machine is assessed at regular intervals and it keeps on changing with passage of time. This clarification has been provided to the audit on 7.8.2001 and no further comments have so far been received from the audit. The capacity utilization of these machines on the

basis of assessed capacity has been about 40 to 50 per cent during last 3 years.

(c) The machines were purchased in 1995 for switch over from Letterpress technology to offset technology. Offset technology is still very much in use and cannot be said to be outdated. There is, therefore, no question of misleading the Government.

(d) In view of (b) and (c) above, the question does not arise.

Specinc areas identifled under urban reforin Incentive Fund

1324. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SH RI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Rs. 500 crore Urban Reforms Incentive Fund, announced in the current year's Budget, has been launched recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme including the specific areas identified for effecting reforms by the States/Union Territories, the road map drawn therefor and the criteria laid down for disbursal of the incentive funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTKY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a provision of Rs. 500.00 crores has been made in the current year's budget for the implementation of the Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF), which is to be released as Central assistance to Annual Plans of the States. Planning Commission has worked out State-wise allocations on the basis of share of each State in urban population and included the same among States resources at the time of fixing the size of Annual Plan as per Statement *(See* below). In the initial phase the urban reforms would address the following areas:—

(i) Repeal of the Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act at the State level by Resolution;

00 Rationalisation of Stamp Duty in phases to bring it down to no more than 5 per.cent by the end of the Tenth Plan period;

(iii) Reform of Rent Control Laws to remove rent control so as to stimulate private investment in rental housing;